

STATINTL

Editorial

Returning CIA To Its Proper Place

The appointment of Gen. Maxwell B. Taylor as military advisor to the White House is a direct result of the Cuban invasion, and it seems a sound step toward resolving the hash which created that mess. And, we may hope, toward preventing future incidents.

After Cuba, President Kennedy appointed a special study committee on the Central Intelligence Agency. Its report is now in, and the first result has been Taylor's appointment.

This is logical, if one examines what the committee found.

The CIA was established to perform what its name implies, intelligence service. It was not intended to become a political arm, as it did under Eisenhower and as it continued under Kennedy. Its added functions were to try to overcome a weak defense policy and to shore up the shortsightedness of our foreign policy. This "put-out-the-fire" assignment began in Iran, and continued through Cuba. In between, we had almost monthly assignments which made headlines in Latin America during Nixon's visit, in Japan, in Laos, Algeria, and Egypt.

In addition, the CIA was asked to provide technical data on Soviet armament progress, not primarily as an intelligence report but as justification for trimming defense proposals.

In view of all this, it is perhaps reasonable to expect that with these extraneous burdens, the CIA won't have more blunders like Cuba.

The correct course for the intelligence agency seems to make more sense. Its job will be intelligence. With the retirement of Allen Dulles later this year, it will be possible to fill that post with a technician rather than a public figure. Taylor will coordinate intelligence, and be responsible for interpretation to the White House.

Although this is not yet clear, we hope the action goes one step further, and stops the CIA from being used in such maneuvers as the Bay of Pigs. We always stub our toe